Secrets. M-27—100,000—21-5-48.

Development (1948) Department.

M/s SERIES.

G.O. No. 2519

Dated 17-5-48.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Mines - Geological Survey of India - Survey of Ceded Districts - Geological Survey Party - Deputation of - Government of India addressed

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
Development Department.

D.O. No. 22481-J-48.

Fort St. George,
Dated the 1st March 1948.

Dear Sri. Gadgil,

Sub:- Mines - Geological Survey of India - Intensive survey of Ceded Districts - Deputation of a Special Geological Survey Party.

We have had to face for sometime strong pressure for intensifying the Geological Survey in certain parts of this Province. No systematic survey of the mineral resources of the Ceded districts (comprising Anantapur, Bellary, Cuddapah and Kurnool) has yet been undertaken. These districts are known to be phenomenally rich in minerals, but although information is available regarding the annual output of the above ground products, there is still a certain amount of speculation as to mineral potentialities. The Government of Madras know that a general survey of these districts was done as long ago as 1860 by Dr. King, Bruce Foote and others. In the present century, Dr. Fox and Coulson visited the asbestos and Barytes deposits of the Ceded districts to advise the Madras Government on some aspects of mineral leasing work in the Ceded districts was actually started with the field season 1940-41. Since then, there have been 1 to 3 officers working in those districts every season and reports have been received on certain specific questions of water supply and the occurrence of certain minerals. Beyond this, it does not appear that an intensive survey of the Ceded districts has been taken up.

The Madras Government have repeatedly pressed on the Government of India the need for increasing the strength of the Geological Survey party working in this Province in order to speed up the pace of geological investigation and mineral development which have a vital bearing on their post-war plans. To this end, they were even prepared to appoint Assistant Geologists in addition to the officers working in the Southern Circle of the Geological Survey of India stationed at Madras. But in view of the promise given by the Government of India in para 2 of their letter No.M.I. (6) dated 19.7.1945 from the Department of Labour that they had decided to expand the staff of the geological survey gradually and that the Madras Province would get as its share the services of about 20 officers when the Central staff had fully expanded, the Government of Madras agreed with some reluctance to defer their scheme for the expansion of the staff in this Province. Although it is gratifying to note from the fields season programme for the current year that 16 officers will be working in this circle in addition to the five officers allotted from Specialist section, only 3 or 4 items relating to the Ceded districts have been included in the field season for 1947-48. The Government of Madras are anxious that the mineral resources of the Ceded districts should be investigated on an intensive scale as soon as possible and I request that the Government of India will be so good as to make arrangements at an early date with the Director, Geological Survey of India to depute a special geological survey party to work on the mineral resources of the Ceded districts.

We have also seen reports of your answer to a

question in the Union Assembly regarding the availability of coal in this Province. As you know, we have under serious consideration proposals for exploiting the iron ores of Salem and Kurnool. One major drawback is the non-availability of coal within easy reach of the ores. Certain alternatives are under consideration, but our ambitions can be more easily achieved if we can get coal from the Godavaris. I wonder therefore whether you could entrust work on this subject to a special/charged with the responsibility of producing the maximum results in the shortest time. I need hardly say that in view of the intensive schemes for industrialisation formulated in the country for the next four or five years a steady supply of coal from a new mine in the South will be a great boon.

I am sorry to inflict such a long letter on you, but feel sure that you will understand my anxiety and come to our assistance.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) H. Sitarama Reddy,
Minister for Industries
and Labour.

Hon'ble Sri. N.V. Gadgil, Minister for Works,
Mines and Power,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

New Delhi,
Dated 28th April 1948.

Dear Reddi Sahib,

Please refer to your D.O. No. 22481/J/48/Dev., dated the 1st March 1948 regarding intensive X survey of the Ceded districts, which was acknowledged by me in my D.O. letter to you of the 4th March 1948.

In continuation I am to say that the expansion of the Geological Survey of India as sanctioned in the year 1945 has not materialised according to expectations, owing to the extreme paucity of suitable technically qualified personnel. Inspite of our best efforts in India and abroad to find suitable men, it has not been possible so far to make appointment to all the sanctioned posts in the Geological Survey of India, several of which are still lying vacant. All the same, we are planning a considerable further expansion of the Geological Survey of India with a view to assisting plans for industrial and economic development of the Central, Provincial and States Governments and we are determined to tap every possible source to get suitable men.

In spite of the dearth of officers in the Geological Survey of India, the Province of Madras had had the largest number of officers compared with any other single Province, since 1939, and in current field season (1947-48), 18 officers are

working there on a whole-time basis. Field programmes are drawn up every year in consultation with the Provincial Governments, and investigations are taken up in the order of their immediate importance from the Provincial point of view. Systematic geological survey of the Ceded districts is already under way and 3 to 4 officers are now working there. If the Government of Madras want the Geological Survey of India to allot more men to the Ceded districts than at present, this could only be done at the expense of the work being carried out in other districts in the Province, as it is not possible to spare any additional officers for this work.

In this connection, a copy of Dr. Krishnan's letter No. 388/11 dated the 31st March 1948, to the Joint Secretary to the Government of Madras, Development, is enclosed for your information, as it clarifies some of the points raised by you in your letter under reply including the question of the investigation of coal in the Godavari Valley. As stated by Dr. Krishnan in his letter referred to above, the main difficulty in the way of undertaking the investigation is the non-availability of drilling equipment and staff for drilling. We are making efforts in the United States of America and Canada to recruit a Drilling Engineer, and as soon as the necessary staff is appointed and the drilling equipment becomes available, the Director, Geological Survey of India will be instructed to take up the investigation.

In conclusion, I am to say that the Government of India fully appreciate the anxiety of your Government for an intensive survey of the Ceded districts and other areas of mineral importance in the Madras Province, and you may rest assured that as soon as the staff under the Geological Survey of India attains to a sufficient strength, survey work in the Ceded districts and other localities in the Madras Province will be intensified as far as possible.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) N.V. Gadgil,
Minister for Works, Mines
and Power.

To
The Hon'ble Shri. Sitarama Reddy,
Minister for Industries and Labour,
Fort St. George, Madras.

Copy of letter No. 388/11 dated the 31st March 1948 from Dr.M.S. Krishnan, Ph.D., Superintending Geologist, Geological Survey of India, Southern circle, Madras to the Joint Secretary to the Government of Madras, Development Department, Madras.

Sub:- Mines - Geological Survey of India - Survey of the Ceded districts.

I have the honour to invite your attention to
/Dev. D.O. No. 22481/J/48/dated the 1st March 1948 from the Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Government of Madras to the Hon'ble Minister for Works, Mines and Power, Government of India. I have been asked by the Director, Geological Survey of India, to see the Hon'ble Minister here and explain to him personally the present position.

As I shall be away from Madras from the 6th April to about the 14th, I shall be able to call on the Hon'ble Minister on any day before the 6th or after the 15th, if you will please fix the date and time in consultation with him and let me know.

In the meanwhile however, I may clarify one or two points arising out of the letter under reference.

Even allowing for exaggerations, it is scarcely correct to say that the Ceded districts are phenomenally rich in minerals. A preliminary investigation for assessing the importance of the available deposits under modern conditions has been made during recent years, and this includes the examination of iron-ores, lead-ores, asbestos, barytes and ceramic clays. There are, of course, extensive deposits of Cuddapah, slabs, slates and marbles, but these are so well know that it is scarcel necessary to carry out at present an intensive survey. The detailed examination of the diamond deposits in various places and of some gold deposits in Anantapur is really one for commercial concerns to undertake, as the places are pretty well known and it is merely a question of re-examining the older workings. In any case such an examination will be very costly and will need special equipment.

Since last year (1946-47) three officers have been carrying out systematic mapping in the Ceded districts. This year the work is being continued and in future years it may be possible to make the party stronger so that examinations can proceed at a fast pace.

In connection with geological survey, it should be realised that there is a limit to the speed at which work can be pushed through. As all the work has to be done on foot involving an examination of even very inaccessible places, an officer can cover roughly around 300 sq. miles or so in a season, depending on the nature of the country and the complexit of the geology. Owing to departmental exigencies it has not so far been possible to assign more than three officers to these districts as much of the department still consists of very junior officers with little experience.

Regarding the question of investigation of coal in the Godavari valley, the main difficulty now is the non-availabilit of drilling equipment and staff for drilling. A drilling sectic is being formed under the Geological survey, but I am unable to say when it will be functioning on a moderate scale.

It will be possible to discuss the above questions as well as other related matters, e.g. some of the recommendations of the Minerals Sub Committee of the Madras Planning Committee, which are of considerable importance to the development of the mineral industry in this Province, at the proposed meeting.

/True copy/

~~Superintendent~~,
Madras ~~Record Office~~.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

In D.O. at pages 1-2 c.f. and the reply of the Hon'ble Sri. N.V. Gadgil at pages 17-18 c.f. may be perused. All the points raised in the Demi-official letter at pages 1-2 c.f. have been met by the Government of India's Minister in his Demi-official letter at pages 17-18 c.f. In view of the position set out therein, it does not appear necessary to pursue the question of asking for a special Geological Survey Party. The papers may be recorded for future reference after perusal by the Hon'ble Minister (Industries). For orders.

x x x
11.5.1948.

K.G.M.
12.5.

H.M. (Industries). H.S.R.
14.5.

G.O. Ms. No. 2519 dated 17.5.1948.

Mines - Geological Survey of India - Survey of Ceded districts - Geological Survey Party - Deputation of-Government of India addressed - Papers recorded.

/True copy/

Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

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